

## Thoughts from a Pastor

*"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself."*

Luke 24:27

The Old Testament is far more than weird stories like swords swallowed up in overweight despots (Judges 3) and talking donkeys (Numbers 22). We need to know and to point others to the fact that the Old Testament is pointing forward to Christ. I have known this for many years now, but when I would read the OT I didn't always think about it. However, in the past few years I have been so encouraged by actively in my daily reading or my studies of the OT to search out the bigger themes in the Bible and how they point me toward Christ. This not only helps us to understand what is going on in the OT but also sheds new light into aspects of the New Testament that we would otherwise read right past without a thought. If you hesitate to read the OT or longing for the more than weird Bible trivia answers, then search the scriptures for Christ from, 'In the beginning' of Genesis to the, 'Amen' in Revelation. Dear friends, it is not always easy, but it is far closer to the surface than you think. My prayer for those that take up this task is that the Holy Spirit will open your eyes just as Jesus revealed to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

~ Pastor Sandy Holbert

## Wednesday Night Dinners

Meals served on Wednesday at 5:00 PM

### Week 1 - 11/3

Ham, Mac & Cheese, Broccoli, & Applesauce

### Week 2 - 11/10

Pulled Chicken Sandwiches, Chips, Veggies & Dip

### Week 4 - 11/17

Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, & Salad

\$2/Child (3-11) | \$4/Adult (12 & Up)

## Giving Thanks

This year has been a year of strife, heartache, death and overall sadness. Many people are in agony trying to find a reason to be happy or a reason to give thanks. However, as Christians, we should know our reason to give thanks. We should praise God no matter what the world throws at us.

We give thanks because God sent His Son to come to earth, live like a regular human, die on the cross and be raised again. And in doing so He took the punishment that was meant for us. He made it so we can live eternally with God in heaven. Let us hold that Truth dearly as we go into this holiday season.

Even though it seems that this world is falling apart, we know that in Christ we are saved and we will be in peace in eternity! Let us take the time this year to share that Truth with anyone we meet! Let us give thanks for what God has given us even in the midst of trial and difficulty!

In light of all that has happened recently, we should be in awe of what God can do. Take a moment out of your day to reflect on ways you can give thanks to God during this season of change and uncertainty.

The church staff as a whole gives thanks to God that we are able to continue to serve here and worship with each and every one of you! We praise God that we are continually able to keep our doors open and we pray that God will use these open doors to further share the Gospel!

Use the verses below as a way to reflect on your gratitude to God:

- \* Psalm 28:7
- \* Psalm 56:4
- \* Psalm 69:30
- \* Psalm 89:1-2
- \* Psalm 92:1-3
- \* Psalm 95:1-3

## Book Review

### **THESE HIGH, GREEN HILLS**

by Jan Karon

This novel is nearly twenty years old, but the reader will find the light humor and simplicity a joy to read.

If you are familiar with Jan Karon's work you will feel as though you are returning to peek in on old friends in the town of Mitford, North Carolina, a fictional village hidden in the hills.

The main characters are the rector, Father Timothy Kavanagh, of The Lord's Chapel, and his new wife, Cynthia, who writes and illustrates children's books.

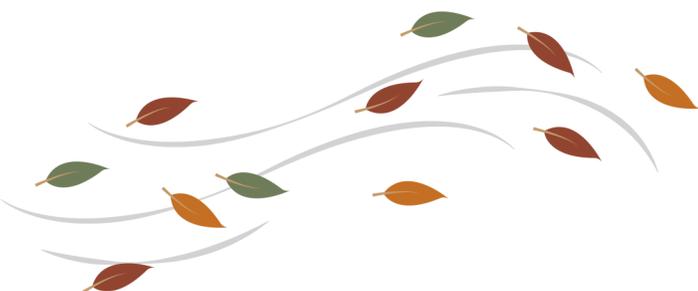
Much humor revolves around the fact that he was a bachelor for over sixty years! Learn how these two acclimate to one another as his big, old loveable dog and her indifferent kitty adjust to the changes as well.

Their adventures include work at the church and in the town with people of all ages and walks of life. Births, weddings and deaths. Life celebrated. Life mourned.

Through the pages of this homey tale there are many examples of God's grace in both the smaller and larger aspects of life. Evidences of love in many forms.

So, hop right in as you read of how these two use the gifts God gave them to sacrifice for and encourage others. You will be refreshed and challenged

~ Reviewed by Bev. Myers



## Bible Studies

### **Ladies Bible Study**

Wednesday | 9:15am  
1st Corinthians  
Nancy Grossman  
Fellowship Hall

### **Ladies Bible Study**

2nd & 4th Tuesdays  
6:30pm  
"Reflections on the  
Words of Jesus"  
Dottie Haines  
at her home

### **Men's Bible Study**

Every other  
Saturday | 8:30am  
The Book of Judges  
Pastor Sandy  
Fellowship Hall

### **SOLO Bible Study**

Saturdays | 7:30pm  
Studying Psalms  
Matt Piatt  
Fellowship Hall

## Events

### **November**

- 10 OCC Shoebox Packing Party | 1pm-8pm
- 21 Grace & La Roca Combined Service
- 24 Thanksgiving Eve Service | 6:30pm
- 25 Turkey Bowl Flag Football | 8am

### **December**

- 12 Pastor's Open House
- 24 Christmas Eve Service | 6:30pm

## Volunteer Opportunities

**CEF Berks** [cefberks.com](http://cefberks.com)

**Hannah's Hope**

[hannahshopeministriesreading.org](http://hannahshopeministriesreading.org)

**Hope Rescue Mission** [hopeforreading.org](http://hopeforreading.org)

**Life's Choices** [lifeschoicessupport.org](http://lifeschoicessupport.org)

**Mercy Crisis Pregnancy Center**

[mercypregnancycenter.org](http://mercypregnancycenter.org)

**Operation Christmas Child**

[Samaritanspurse.org](http://Samaritanspurse.org)

Talk to Beckie Merrick for more details.

**Pinebrook Bible Conference**

[pinebrook.org](http://pinebrook.org)

**Victory Valley** [victoryvalleycamp.org](http://victoryvalleycamp.org)